(a) whether mere expansion of Indian economy will be able to address the issues relating to the plight of children who are suffering from under-nourishment, anaemia and basic schooling facilities;

(b) whether it is a fact that Government have failed to provide guarantee to the right to education in many parts of the country; and

(c) if so, the reason therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) The National Nutritional Policy, 1993 states that *"Mere economic development, or even the adequacy of food at household levels, are no guarantees for a stable and satisfactory nutritional status. However, the overall development strategy of a country is likely to have a pronounced bearing on what nutritional planning can accomplish. ... Nutrition is a multi-sectoral issue and needs to be tackled at various levels. Nutrition affects development as much as development affects nutrition"*.

(b) and (c) The 86th Constitutional Amendment Act, 2002 inserts Article 21-A in the Constitution which provides that *"the State shall provide free and compulsory education to all children of the age of six to fourteen years in such manner as the State may, by law, determine"*. Section 1(2) of the 86th Constitutional Amendment Act provides that *"it shall come into force on such date as the Central Government may, by notification in Official Gazeette, appoint"*. This notification has not yet been issued pending enactment of the consequential legislation envisaged under Article 21-A. A draft Model Right to Education Bill, spelling out broad parameters and features for achieving the Constitutional mandate of free and compulsory education was drafted and circulated as framework to the States/Union Territories to seek their comments thereon.

Free education of poor children

180. SHRI TARIQ ANWAR: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have provided subsidized land to private schools for giving free education to the children of poor people;

(b) if so, whether such schools are following the stipulated conditions; and

(c) if not, the action Government are taking against those schools which are not following the rules?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) to (c) The State/Union Territory Governments allot land on concessional rates to institutions imposing certain conditions on them and these conditions vary from place to place. The monitoring and enforcement of the conditions imposed are the responsibility of the State/UT Governments concerned. On the basis of direction of the Delhi High Court dated 20.01.2004 to frame rules to provide 20 per cent freeship for children of economically weaker section in unaided private schools, which have been allotted land by the Government agencies, the Directorate of Education of Government of NCT of Delhi had issued an order dated 27.04.2004. On the basis of a fresh direction from the Delhi High Court, Government of

NCT of Delhi issued a fresh notification on 25.01.2007 regarding provision of free seats to the extent of not less than 20 per cent of total seats. The matter is *sub-judice*.

Funds for Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan in Andhra Pradesh

181. SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact the some funds were siphoned off in Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan projects recently in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the action taken thereon;

(d) the status of such cases reported during the last three years; and

(e) the action taken in respect of each case?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) to (e) According to the information furnished by the School Education Department, Government of Andhra Pradesh, an amount of Rs. 14,98,03,378/- of District Primary Education Programme (DPEP)/Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) had been diverted to unauthorized Bank Accounts by the Assistant Accounts Officer of SSA, Andhra Pradesh. An FIR was lodged by the SSA office with the City Central Crime Station on 02.04.2007. Subsequently, the State Government has transferred the case to CID for further investigation. The Government of Andhra Pradesh also has on 25.05.2007 appointed a retired Judge of the High Court as a Commission of Inquiry under the Commissions of Inquiry Act, 1952 to probe into all aspects of embezzlement including the circumstances or the lapses which led to embezzlement and to fix the responsibility on the persons allegedly involved. The Government of Andhra Pradesh has suspended three Accounts Officials and another three have been transferred out of the State Project Office of SSA/DPEP. In addition, Government of India has requested the Comptroller and Auditor General of India to carry out a special Audit of Accounts pertaining to DPEP and SSA for the period from 2000-01 till date through the Andhra Pradesh State Accountant General (Audit) to ascertain the veracity of accounts.

Misuse of DPEP funds

182. SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether funds of District Primary Education Programme (DPEP) were heavily misused recently in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the action taken in the matter; and

(d) the steps being taken to ensure that the funds reach to the students of DPEP?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) to (d) According to the